

## ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

May 7, 2003

### TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

#### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS—SPRING 2003 TSP MEETING**

- *Co-chair Election*
- *New TSP Meeting Format*
- *Agency Engineering Expertise Survey*
- *Issue Paper Updates*
- *Engineering Forum Expertise Survey*
- *Evergreen List*

### **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

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#### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS—SPRING 2003 TSP MEETING**

Sharon Hayes (Region 1) reviewed the business session discussions from the spring TSP meeting in Seattle. She felt that the meeting was a success and heard many positive comments about the technical presentations. She is in the process of writing thank-you letters to the speakers. In addition, the co-chairs are drafting a brief "Highlights" summary of the presentations that will be distributed to Regional RPMs in a newsletter format. EMS is preparing more detailed minutes for posting on the TSP web site.

#### **Co-Chair Election**

Neil Thompson's term as co-chair expires following the spring meeting. The co-chair election for Neil's spot will take place via e-mail. EF members should send nominations to either Sharon Hayes or Bill Rothenmeyer (Region 8) by noon on Wednesday, June 4, 2003. Any EF member in good standing is eligible to be a co-chair, and self nominations are acceptable. During the June EF teleconference, the co-chairs will announce the nominees, and members will cast their votes via email before the July teleconference. The co-chair elected this spring will serve a 2-year term that expires in spring 2005.

#### **New TSP Meeting Format**

At the spring meeting, Kelly Madalinski (TIO) announced that TIO has decided to shorten the length of one of the semi-annual meetings from 5 days to 2 days. The shorter meeting will focus primarily on business sessions and will not involve coordinated joint sessions or field trips. Some forums may choose not to meet at all, depending on work load. Headquarters will be responsible for locating and timing the shorter meeting. Lessening the duration of the second meeting will ultimately reduce the planning burden on the individual forums, lower costs, and encourage the use of other tools to share and exchange information. The fall meeting will generally be the longer, more traditional meeting format, while the spring meeting will be shortened. The Ground Water Forum has the lead for the fall 2003 meeting, which will likely be in late October in the Buffalo/Niagara area and will focus on fractured bedrock.

#### **Agency Engineering Expertise Survey**

Camille Hueni (Region 6) raised concerns that the Regions may be understaffed with engineers. She asked EF members to query RPMs to get an idea of the number of engineers and their areas of expertise within each Region. Armed with this information, Camille suggested that the Forum draft a letter to senior management notifying them of the loss of engineering expertise and the potential impacts of this knowledge drain on Agency efforts. Camille, Mike Gill (Region 9 HSTL), and Karen Mason-Smith (Region 5) agreed to frame a proposal that will be discussed at the National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPM) meeting in May. Carmen Santiago (Region 4) brought this issue to the attention of Nestor Young, a NARPM co-chair from Region 4. Nestor (404-562-8817)

would like to speak with Camille about this issue. Mike will send a note to Camille notifying her of Nestor's interest and will recommend a conference call the following week.

## **Issue Paper Updates**

### ***Remedial Process Screening Data Collection Paper***

At the spring meeting, Ed Mead (USACE) distributed draft copies of his remedial process screening data collection paper for comment and discussion. The document contains two tables to guide remedial project managers in selecting and obtaining physical and chemical parameters relevant to remedy implementation. Ed corrected some errors that were pointed out at the spring meeting and redistributed the paper before the teleconference.

Ed said the document still has some errors and needs to be fleshed out more completely, but it is ready for field testing. Ed asked EF members to review the draft one last time and to contact him if they think the tool could be used at a site in their Region. EF members should forward the tool to RPMs in their Region, explicitly notifying them that the matrix has not undergone Agency review and should be considered draft. Ed also volunteered to conduct on-site audits himself if the matrix is used in the field.

### ***Energy Audit Issue Paper and Energy Management Resources Guide for Waste Remediation Sites***

Mike Gill (Region 9 HSTL) will keep the EF informed about the TIO review and potential publishing dates of the energy audit issue paper. He was pleased that TIO is happy with the draft final. Mike hopes that the paper will be published this fiscal year. Ed Mead noted that USACE has received approval to look at an internal combustion engine that will be used to generate electricity at a landfill. Ed will pass any useful information about this project to Mike. In addition, Mike has secured funding from ORD to develop an energy guide for waste remediation sites. Work on the guidelines will begin in May 2003.

### ***In-Situ Soil Treatment Issue Paper***

Gene Keeper (Region 6) reported that TIO has agreed to fund an update of the 1993 EF issue paper "Considerations in Deciding to Treat Contaminated Unsaturated Soils In Situ." The updating of the issue paper is being coordinated by NRMRL-Cincinnati. Gene has received the initial work plan, which indicates that the final paper will be completed by mid-September.

### ***Updated Engineering Bulletins***

Dave Reisman said that OERR wants to update several engineering bulletins that were originally published several years ago. The Technology Transfer group will provide the funding and will update the papers. The bulletins that will most likely be updated include:

- In Situ Thermal Treatment;
- Phytoremediation (which may be cancelled because of a new book on the topic that is being published);
- In Situ Bioremediation; and
- PCBs Remediation.

Engineering bulletins on biological and chemical dehalogenation (BCD), thermal desorption, SVE, and pump and treat may also be updated in the near future. In addition, a hardrock mining engineering bulletin has been proposed. Once the bulletins have been updated, the EF will have an opportunity for review and comment. Steve Kinser (Region 7) will coordinate the EF review. Dave is working with ORD's web team to iron out possible American with Disabilities Act compliance issues that might arise if the documents are placed on EPA's website with hyperlinks.

### ***Updating the RD/RA Handbook***

Steve Kinser (Region 7) sent a conceptual model and straw proposal to the co-chairs for review and comment.

## **Engineering Forum Expertise Survey**

The EF decided that the list of EF members' areas of expertise should be posted on the TSP website. The goal is to have the updated expertise list on the web before the fall meeting. Only current/active members will be required to complete the survey. Mark Granger (Region 2) will make the changes to the list and update the Forum on future EF calls. The expertise list will be updated yearly.

## **Evergreen List**

The EF identified high priority topics for future issue papers and technical topics from the evergreen list. After reading through the current list, members removed topics that were redundant or for which work was being done by other offices, agencies, or organizations. Several topics were reprioritized to reflect the changing trends in remediation technologies and methods. Mark Granger will incorporate the edits into the document and redistribute it to the EF. EF members and friends can submit new topics or issues to Mark at any time, and he will add them to the list.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

Mike Gill mentioned that NIEHS will be holding a meeting the second week of October at University of California–Berkeley. The focus of the meeting will be ground-water remediation technologies. NIEHS has expressed interest in partnering with the Forum, so members may want to considering attending the meeting. Mike will forward the agenda to EF members for review. Steve Mangion (Region 1 HSTL) noted that Dick Willey (Region 1 GWF) was supposed to place this issue on the agenda for the next co-chair call. Sharon said she would forward this agenda item to the other forum co-chairs.

Sharon Hayes will send EF participation agreements to the three new EF members (Carmen Santiago (Region 5), Karen Mason-Smith (Region 5), Leo Romanowski (Region 4), and Carlos Sanchez (Region 6)).

Steve Mangion asked EF members to share their thoughts about the DNAPL technical topics from the spring meeting. Sharon said that there appeared to be more agreement that source removal is an acceptable option. Harry Ball (Region 9) enjoyed the discussions about mass reduction versus mass flux reduction. Steve said he will forward an email he received from Ruth Izraeli (Region 2 GWF) to the EF.

## **ATTENDEES**

Sharon Hayes, Region 1  
Steve Mangion, Region 1 HSTL  
Mark Granger, Region 2  
Jon Bornholm, Region 4  
Carmen Santiago, Region 4  
Karen Mason-Smith, Region 5  
Bernie Schorle, Region 5  
Gene Keepper, Region 6  
Steve Kinser, Region 7  
James Dunn, Region 8 HSTL

Harry Ball, Region 9  
Mike Gill, Region 9 HSTL  
Kelly Madalinski, TIO  
Dave Reisman, NRMRL-Cinc.  
Marta Richards, NRMRL-Cinc.  
Gareth Pearson, NERL-LV  
Ed Mead, USACE-Omaha  
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC  
Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.